

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
ACDA-07 OMB-01 /077 W  
-----281838 073504 /53

R 281245Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6013  
INFO AMEMBASSY TELAVIV  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 0538

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ME, AG  
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. FOLLOWING UP ON NORTH AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION  
MEETING IN AMMAN, I CALLED 27 FEB ON BENHABYLES, SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS ALGERIAN  
VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES.

2. AFTER REVIEWING WITH HIM ESSENTIALS OF SECRETARY'S  
DAMASCUS PRESS CONFERENCE AND COM DISCUSSIONS, IF ASKED  
HIM FOR ALGERIAN VIEWS ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS OF WITHDRAWAL,  
PEACE AND PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

3. BENHABYLES BRUSHED ASIDE THESE ISSUES TO FOCUS ON  
PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.  
HE AFFIRMED THAT FOR ALGIERANS, KEY TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM  
IS RECOGNITION OF PLO AS FULL PARTICIPANT AT GENEVA.  
ONCE THIS RECOGNITION ACCORDED, HE SAID, SOLUTIONS  
TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WILL FALL INTO PLACE.

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4. HE ARGUED THAT VERY CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE  
WITH ARAB COUNTRIES MEETING WITH ISRAELIS WILL CONSTITUTE  
DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI STATE AND THAT SAME  
RECOGNITION MUST BE ACCORDED PLO. HE SAID THAT US  
SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT PLO LEADERSHIP IS NOW MORE  
MODERATE THAN EVER BEFORE AND IS ALREADY MAKING  
SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS; HE URGED THAT US TAKE ADVANTAGE

OF CURRENT MODERATE DOMINANCE OF PLO TO MOVE AHEAD. IF PLO ATTENDS GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH STATUS LESS THAN FULL PARTICIPANT, HE PREDICTED RESULT WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE REJECTIONIST AND TERRORIST ELEMENTS WITHIN PLO WHICH WILL REJECT MODERATE LEADERSHIP.

5. BENHABYLES SAID THAT IF PLO ACCEPTS TO GO TO GENEVA WITH LESS THAN FULL STATUS, ALGERIA WILL NOT OBJECT. ALGERIA, HE SAID, WILL ACCEPT WHATEVER PALESTINIANS ACCEPT, AND HAS NEVER SOUGHT TO HINDER NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH A PROCEDURE, HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED, WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY PARTIAL SOLUTION COMING OUT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND, HE REPEATED, WOULD INEVITABLY ENCOURAGE REJECTIONIST AND TERRORIST FACTIONS WITHIN PLO. HE SAID ALGERIANS HAD LEARNED FROM THEIR REVOLUTION THAT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT CANNOT MAKE CONCESSIONS BEFORE IT ACHIEVES STATUS AND IS AT NEGOTIATING TABLE; IF IT DOES MAKE CONCESSIONS BEFOREHAND IT WILL DESTROY ITSELF. OCE RECOGNITION IS ACHIEVED, HE SAID, CONCESSIONS CAN THEN BE MADE.

6 HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED SECRETARY HAD FOUND SOME CONFUSION AND LACK OF UNANIMITY AMONG ARABS. THE PLO ITSELF IS DIVIDED, INTER-ARAB QUARRELS ARE AT A NEW HIGH, AND, HE SAID, OTHER DISTRACTION, "SUCH AS SAHARA FOR ALGERIA," ARE OCCUPYING ATTENTION. HE THEN RECITED ALGERIAN TALE OF CUSTOMER GOING INTO STORE BUT REFUSING TO BUY AN APPLIANCE UNTIL HE IS SHOWN IT WORKS: "SHOW ME IT WORKS AND I WILL BUY IT."

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IN THIS CASE, HE SAID, ARAB COUNTRIES ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT WILL WORK AND ALSO WAITING TO SEE IF PLO, AS KEY CUSTOMER, WILL BUY WHAT US COMES UP WITH.

7. IN CONCLUSION BENHABYLES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED THIS YEAR SO THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE AT CIEC ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, WHICH HE THEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, PEACE PLANS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, AG, PLO, (BENHABYLES, ABDELMALEK)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009